

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. today issued the following statement:

"I'm vigorously opposed to President Bush's plan to send additional troops into Iraq. His decision to escalate American involvement in the Iraq War goes against the interests of the United States and the will of the American people. Make no mistake -- this is George W. Bush's War.

**"It's illogical:** This is doing the same thing over and expecting a different result. This has been tried twice before and has not worked.

**"It's deceptive:** This is not a "surge," but rather an escalation of American troops and American involvement, which will tragically cause even more death and destruction -- on top of the more than 3,000 American troops who have already died, and the many more who have been seriously wounded and permanently disabled.

**"It's backwards:** This is an attempt to impose a half-baked, unworkable military solution, when Iraq needs a political one. Rather than a military escalation, the situation requires a diplomatic and political intensification. The American military must stand down so that the Iraqi people will stand up and assume responsibility for their own future.

**"It's a colossal failure:** This ignores reality and plunges further down a dark and disastrous hole. As a result of the White House's delusions and denial, Iraq is in Civil War; the Middle East is in crisis; our enemies are emboldened; the U.S. military has been strained; the U.S. treasury has been drained; our allies have been alienated; and the world is more dangerous.

"In the November Elections, the American people sent a clear message: **DO NOT stay the course** in Iraq, squandering billions of our tax dollars and recklessly putting our brave soldiers into harm's way -- smack in the middle of a bloody civil war. But, the White House refuses to listen. They reject the views of the Iraq Study Group, most of the nation's top military officials, the American people and their elected representatives.

"As Democrats, we support our troops. But, we don't support the commander-in-chief sending our bravest on a fool's errand -- **to die for a lie in the desert.**

Jackson concluded, "We must start to come to grips with reality, reverse course and withdraw our military forces from Iraq, now!"